

Indiana University School of Social Work

Master of Social Work Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS SOCIAL WORK THE RIGHT CAREER FOR ME?

The National Association of Social Workers has a wonderful site which offers much information about the profession of Social Work. Additionally, they provide a copy of the Code of Ethics and informative issues regarding advocacy. You are encouraged to review all these areas before deciding if Social Work is the right career for you. The web site address is <http://naswdc.org>.

WHERE IS THE MSW PROGRAM OFFERED?

The main campus is in Indianapolis at the IUPUI campus. Branch campuses are at IU Northwest (Gary), IU South Bend and IPFW (Fort Wayne).

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET THE DEGREE?

The program is 60 credit hours. The full-time program usually takes two years to complete. The part-time programs take 3-4 years to complete depending upon your scheduling needs and time commitments. Those students accepted with Advance Standing Status (students who have a Bachelor of Social Work) only need to complete 45 credit hours. The Advance Standing Accelerated program takes one year to complete. Full-time advance standing takes one and a half years, and the part-time programs usually take two years. The School of Social Work provides student advising to assist with scheduling and program completion time lines.

WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM BEGIN?

The part-time evening and Saturday programs begin in our second summer session at IUPUI, which begins June 25th in 2007. The full-time program and the part-time day program begin in the fall on August 2nd in 2007. The Advanced Standing Accelerated program begins on May 9th in 2007. If you do not begin the program at the above start times, you must wait until the next year to begin. You must check with IUSB and IUN for their specific start dates. Fort Wayne students follow IUPUI for program information.

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM? WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

A potential student can submit their application as soon as applications are available in the fall as Indiana University School of Social Work (IUSSW) has rolling admissions. If you would like to receive notification of your admission status by March 31st 2006, you must apply by the priority date of February 1st 2007 (with the exception of the advance standing

ACCELERATED applicants). You may apply after that date, but please pay attention to the absolute deadlines, which are program specific:

- The deadline for application for Advanced Standing **Accelerated** (one year fast-track program for Bachelor of Social Work students) will be announced soon, and it will be in mid January 2007.
- The deadline for the part-time evening and part-time Saturday program (including advance standing students interested in these options) will be in mid-May (date to be announced).
- The deadline for the full-time program and the part-time day program (including advance standing students) will be in mid July (to be announced).

However, it is wise to submit it as early as possible, before the priority date of February 1, 2006.

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT MY GRE SCORES?

No, IUSSW does not utilize the GRE scores – they will not be viewed even if submitted.

HOW ARE GPA'S FIGURED?

IUSSW requires a GPA of 3.0 for the final 60 credit hours of an undergraduate degree. Each applicant should review their transcripts to ensure that they have a clear understanding of their GPA. IUSSW uses a four point scale when calculating GPA. Information regarding how to figure your GPA can be found in the document titled "Assembling Your Application" on our application CD.

WHAT IF MY GPA IS LOWER THAN 3.0? CAN I STILL APPLY?

Absolutely - IUSSW recognizes that every applicant has not necessarily enjoyed the same access and opportunities to undergraduate education. However, it is necessary that an applicant address the issues that impacted their lower GPA in a written petition. Therefore, we have provided a form titled "Petition for Exceptional Consideration" in the Application Forms for use in this situation. It outlines the information needed in the petition. An applicant with a GPA below 3.0 and no petition will not be considered for admission.

WHAT ARE THE PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE MSW PROGRAM?

There are two pre-requisites for the program: statistics and research methods. In addition, each applicant must have completed at least six courses in social/behavioral science areas, such as social work, psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, criminal justice and political science. If you have taken statistics and research methods in social science areas, those classes will count toward the six that you need.

AM I REQUIRED TO HAVE ALL OF THE PRE-REQUISITES COMPLETED BEFORE I APPLY TO THE MSW PROGRAM?

No, the pre-requisite classes must be completed before the start of the cohort to which you are applying. This means that if you are applying to the part-time Saturday or evening program you must have these courses completed before the beginning of the second summer session which is June 25, 2007. If you are applying to the accelerated advanced standing program, pre-requisites must be completed before the start of the first summer session, which is May 9, 2007. All other programs start in the fall semester which begins August 22nd, 2007. An applicant can be admitted conditionally, based on the successful completion of the required pre-requisite course(s).

IS THERE A MINIMUM GRADE FOR THE PRE-REQUISITE COURSES? WILL A LOW GRADE IN THESE COURSES NEGATIVELY IMPACT MY ABILITY TO BE ADMITTED?

While there is no minimum grade for each course, you must receive a passing grade. IUSSW wants each student to possess the knowledge/content of the course. An applicant that is unsure of their abilities is welcome to take the course on a pass/fail basis.

WHAT IF THE COURSES I WANT TO UTILIZE FOR THE PRE-REQUISITES ARE NOT ON THE LIST OF APPROVED COURSES?

The listing of pre-approved courses are provided in our application CD in the document titled “Current Approved Pre-Requisite Course Roster” located in “The Application” folder. However, the list is not exhaustive. If you do not find an exact match of your state, school and course number, then that could simply mean that it has not been submitted for consideration. Please make sure that you submit an official course description and/or syllabus for each pre-requisite not already listed for the committee’s review and consideration.

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE CURRENT ACADEMIC REFERENCES?

Not every applicant has a current professional affiliation with former professors. We encourage each applicant to choose those persons who can best speak to their abilities to practice social work and succeed in graduate school. Please note that applicants should never use family members or significant others. Additionally, please carefully consider the use of clergy or counselors – sometimes these individuals are limited in their scope of answers due to confidentiality issues.

I AM CONFUSED ABOUT THE ON-LINE UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCESS. DO I HAVE TO APPLY TWICE?

Every applicant must submit a university application as well as the MSW application. On the IUPUI campus, the university application is in the form of an online application. Please remember that the online university application is for demographic information/registration

access to the IU computer system, as well as to collect the payment of the application fee assessed by the university. Therefore, **do not fill out references online, do not include a writing sample, and do not include transcripts with this online application**, as those materials will be submitted with the MSW paperwork.

If you have problems with the online application, feel free to contact the MSW Office of Student Services at 317-274-8364 or Rachel Sipes at rdsipes@iupui.edu. The university strongly prefers the use of the online application whenever possible. However, if it is not possible for you to submit the application electronically, a paper version is also available. Using the above mentioned contact information you can request a copy be sent to you. Please be sure that you clearly state that you need a paper version of the university application instead of the MSW paperwork. The university application must be submitted **prior to or concurrent with** the MSW application.

Make sure that you understand that the MSW application to the School is **self-managed** which means that the applicant must gather all required documents and send in one complete application. Do not send in an incomplete application as it will not be reviewed. It is better to submit a completed application shortly after the priority date than it is to submit an incomplete application by the priority date.

I HAVE GRADUATE CREDITS FROM A NON-SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM. CAN THESE BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE MSW PROGRAM?

A person with graduate credits in a behavioral science, within the last five years, may petition the school to accept three credit hours as an elective. Course work that is part of a conferred graduate degree may not be considered for transfer credit.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THIS DEGREE?

The MSW degree offered at Indiana University is a 60 credit hour program. Tuition is:

CAMPUS	Cost per credit hour for Indiana Residents	Cost per credit hour for Non-Residents
IUPUI	\$249.00	\$650.00

Each semester a student must also pay a variety of required fees that are based on the number of credit hours per semester which can average up to \$200. This does not include the cost of books for each course. Additional information about this issue can be found in the documents titled "Financial Aid and Tuition" in our application CD.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL AID?

The majority of the resources for graduate students in the MSW program are in the form of student loans. There is a very limited amount of financial assistance within IUSSW. The application for this is included with the Application Forms contained on this CD. Be sure that you complete the form relevant to your campus. (This assistance has generally resulted

in a small number of students receiving approximately \$500 per semester for one year on the IUPUI campus.)

All students are encouraged to search for individual opportunities for financial aid. Utilizing internet sites such as www.fastweb.com or www.finaid.org can be helpful. **DO NOT PAY FOR ANY SEARCHES FOR FINANCIAL AID AWARDS. THIS INFORMATION IS FREE TO ANYONE.**

The School of Social Work has its own financial aid counselor. For specific financial aid questions, please contact Jennifer Vines at gradaid@iupui.edu and let her know you are a prospective student seeking information.